

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/IB2004/001102

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 C22B11/00 C22B3/20 C22B3/44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 C22B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 571 262 A (KERFOOT DEREK G E ET AL) 18 February 1986 (1986-02-18)	1,3-7
Y	Claim 1; Column 3, line 4 - Column 4, line 11	8-15
Y	US 2002/152845 A1 (FLEMING CHRISTOPHER A ET AL) 24 October 2002 (2002-10-24) Abstract; Figure 1	8-10,12, 13
Y	GB 1 153 717 A (TECHNION RES & DEV FOUNDATION) 29 May 1969 (1969-05-29) Claims 1 and 2	11,14,15
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 July 2004

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20/07/2004

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>FLETT D S: "SOLUTION PURIFICATION"  HYDROMETALLURGY, ELSEVIER SCIENTIFIC  PUBLISHING CY. AMSTERDAM, NL,  vol. 30, no. 1 / 3,  1 June 1992 (1992-06-01), pages 327-344,  XP000382341  ISSN: 0304-386X  Pages 328-330</p>	1
X,P	<p>WO 03/087416 A (LEWINS JOHN DEREK ;  PLATINUM AUSTRALIA LTD (AU))  23 October 2003 (2003-10-23)  Page 10, lines 3-20</p>	1-17

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Information on patent family members

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			AU 568232 B2	17-12-1987
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			AU 4529500 A	10-11-2000
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